GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2142
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2003
EXPENSES IN HIRING OF ADVOCATES
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited Board has approved the pre-mature closure of the Jhanjhara Phase-bf the Eastern Coal Fields Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the approval of the Government and the company to start the Jhanjhara project was made in 1995, work on it was started in 1998 and its closure has been approved in 2002; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to re-start this project?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) to (c): A proposal of Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) for Jhanjhara Phase - I Project of Eastern Coal Fields Limite(ECL) with a capacity of 2 MTY was sanctioned by the Government in August, 1995. Due to restrictions imposed by Director General Mines Safety (DGMS) in working with existing Powered Support Longwall (PSLW) equipment, non-availability of fund foreplacing outlived PSLW and development equipment, the project has been foreclosed. CIL Board has approved the foreclosure of Jhanjhara Phase - I Underground Project at a capacity of 1.03 million tonnes per year. Foreclosure of the project does not mean closure but to operate it with de-rated capacity. This mine will continue to produce coal at this capacity with the existing equipment/infrastructure.

(d): After the approval of Foreclosure Report by the Government, ECL would consider augmenting the productioncapacity of the project to its rated/optimum capacity by procuring suitable equipment.